

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to Lowell Area Schools because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's current bandwidth needs. I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

In my classroom I use digital learning to personalize learning, meet Common Core State Standards, administer online assessments, make data-driven decisions, and connect my students to a global audience for their questions and learning. Examples of digital learning in my classroom are conducting mystery Skypes with classrooms around the world to teach geography and global online literacy clubs to expand my students' learning beyond the walls of our classroom. However, Lowell Area Schools' network is failing to keep up with demand, and the need for a reliable high-speed network is only going to increase in the near future.

The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.